

Region: All Regions

Site Information: Sojourner Truth House, Inc - Shelter
PO Box 080319
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Site Contact Person/Title: Mariana Rodriquez, Program Manager
Phone: (414) 389-6508 **E-Mail:** mariana.rodriquez@umos.org
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Billing Contact Name: Karen Marsh **Phone:** (414) 643-1777

Is agency Medicaid certified? no **Faith-based Organization:** no
Minority or Disadvantaged Vendor: yes (Disadvantaged Vendor)

Facility Accessibility:

• DD/TTY number: (414) 933-2722	• Is wheelchair accessible
• Has a location near public transportation	

Specializations:

- Programs for Women
- Services for Families with Children (Childcare Provided)
- Offers Spanish language

Hours of Operations:

Monday:	24 hours each day	Tuesday:	24 hours each day
Wednesday:	24 hours each day	Thursday:	24 hours each day
Friday:	24 hours each day	Saturday:	24 hours each day
Sunday:	24 hours each day	Emergency Contact 24 Hour Phone Number: (414)933-2722	

Program Description

Since 1978, families that are forced to flee their unhealthy domestic violence home environment often seek refuge in the safety and security of our shelter. This respite from the physical, emotional and psychological abuse they are suffering provides them with an opportunity to realize and understand that domestic abuse is wrong and is not to be tolerated. Sojourner Truth House provides them with food, warmth, security, transportation, empathy and support, and this often serves as a catalyst for a journey that takes them from despair towards empowerment and the prevention of revictimization. Sojourner Truth House also provides counseling and advocacy for the purpose of enhancing their self-esteem and further moving them towards a life free from violence and abuse. In 2004, Sojourner Truth House sheltered 355 women and their 256 children. Of the 202 women who volunteered to participate in a client tracking program during 2004, 180 or 89.1% reported that abuse and violence had been eliminated from their personal relationships for up to one year following their shelter residency. The agency operates a website that can be accessed at SojournerTruthHouse.org

Research long ago concluded that children raised in a violent home environment are prone to use violence later in their adult lives and perpetuate the “chain of violence” from generation to generation.

To address this issue and break this chain, the children's program of Sojourner Truth House empowers children with the skills and tools necessary to foster healthy relationships. These tools include safety planning, conflict resolution, and an understanding that domestic violence is wrong and is not to be expected nor tolerated.

The children's program focuses on the sheltered children of adult shelter residents and the children of women who participate in programs at the Belle Resource Center for Women and Children. Children's program participants complete an intake/orientation session, and then participate in program services such as: child care, a grade specific support tutoring program, and advocacy and support groups that center on education, health, legal and other issues that benefit program participants. In 2004, this program served 116 school-age children, and 165 children participated in child care.

Housed within the shelter is the 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline that can be accessed at (414) 933-2722. Staff and volunteers handle crisis, information and referral calls, and calls from law enforcement officers from throughout Milwaukee County who are investigating at the scene of domestic violence incidents that will later be reviewed by the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office. The Hotline also receives calls from the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department regarding the imminent release of individuals taken into custody during domestic violence incidents. The Hotline provides the victims of domestic abuse with a critical lifeline to support, information, and referrals to other service providers. The Hotline is used to screen callers for admittance to the shelter. In 2004, the Hotline handled 15,772 calls.